

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02461 170820Z

11-R
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 L-01 INR-05 H-01 A-01 /032 W
----- 120644
P 160832Z APR 76 ZDK CITE RUEHCS 1314W
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9192

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E.O.5(&92: N/A
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TW, US
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY RE WORLD FREEDOM DAY

REF: (A) TAIPEI 2051, (B) TAIPEI 1539, (C) 75 STATE 298178,
(D) 74 STATE 268115, (E) 74 STATE 131812, (F) 74 STATE 012685,
(G) 73 STATE 138760

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM REP. LARRY P. MCDONALD (WHO WAS THE AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL SPEAKER AT FEBRUARY 23, 1976, WORLD FREEDOM DAY RALLY) ENCLOSING GUIDANCE POSTED AT SHU LIN KOU AIR STATION DISCOURAGING ATTENDANCE AT THE RALLY (REFS A AND B). CONGRESSMAN MCDONALD HAS REQUESTED AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS.

2. TEXT OF APRIL 7, 1976 LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN LARRY P. MCDONALD TO AMBASSADOR UNGER:

QUOTE: A. THIS YEAR, AS YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE, I WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS AT THE "WORLD FREEDOM DAY" CEREMONIES HELD IN TAIPEI ON FEBRUARY 23RD. THE ENCLOSED ITEM WAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OF ONE OF TH U.S. AIR FORCES UNITS ON TAIWAN. UPON MY RETURN I CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AND WAS INFORMED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS THE SOURCE OF THIS "GUIDANCE." I STRONGLY RESENT THE INFERENCE THAT OUR AIRMEN SHOULD NOT ATTEND AN ANTI-COMMUNIST RALLY, PARTICULARLY ONE WHERE A UNITED STATES
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 02461 170820Z

CONGRESSMAN IS SPEAKING.

B. YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS MATTER WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY ME. END QUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS RELEVANT PORTION OF THE 6987TH SECURITY GROUP, SHU LIN KOU AIR STATION, "STAFF MEETING NOTES" OF JANUARY 14, 1976, WHICH CONGRESSMAN PROVIDED:

QUOTE: ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE WILL HOLD A RALLY DOWNTOWN SOMETIME NEXT MONTH. THIS IS A FOREIGN NATIONAL RALLY AND PARTICIPATION BY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IS DISCOURAGED. END QUOTE.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR UNGER'S INTENDED REPLY TO THE CONGRESSMAN:

A. I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 7, 1976, EXPRESSING YOUR CONCERN ABOUT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE TO OFFICIAL PERSONNEL ON ATTENDANCE AT THE WORLD FREEDOM DAY RALLY HELD IN TAIPEI FEBRUARY 23, 1976.

B. AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, I WAS NOT HERE AT THE TIME OF THE RALLY. HOWEVER, I UNDERSTAND THAT LOCAL GUIDANCE CONCERNING ATTENDANCE AT THE WORLD FREEDOM DAY RALLY WAS ISSUED BY LOCAL U.S. MILITARY AUTHORITIES BASED ON STANDING EMBASSY GUIDANCE CONCERNING ATTENDANCE AT CERTAIN TYPES OF POLITICAL RALLIES HELD ON TAIWAN. THIS GUIDANCE WAS ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED INITIALLY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DURING THE TENURE OF MY PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR P. MCCONAUGHY.

C. YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT ON SIMILAR PREVIOUS OCCASIONS SPEECHS HAVE BEEN MADE, AND THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION FOR THE RALLY HAS PUBLISHED ARTICLES, HIGHLY CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY. (FOR EXAMPLE, SEE ENCLOSED COPY OF AN ARTICLE FROM THE DECEMBER 1973 EDITION OF ASIAN OUTLOOK, AN ASIAN PEOPLE'S ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE PUBLICATION, AND AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY'S FEBRUARY 7, 1974, LETTER TO KU CHENG-KANG, CHAIRMAN OF APACL.) THEREFORE, IT WAS FELT THAT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SHOULD NOT ATTEND THIS RALLY IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY BECAUSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 02461 170820Z

OF POTENTIAL OFFENSE OR EMBARRASSMENT TO OUR GOVERNMENT FROM LIKELY CONTENT OF SPEECHS BY CHINESE SPONSORS. WE HAVE NOT PRESUMED TO TELL U.S. CITIZENS WHETHER THEY SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT ATTEND IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY.

D. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND THIS INFORMATION USEFUL IN EXPLAINING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S POSITION CONCERNING ATTENDANCE AT THIS RALLY. IF YOU DESIRE FURTHER

INFORMATION, I AM SURE THAT THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
RELATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST
YOU. END QUOTE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE ASAP ANY COMMENTS DEPART-
MENT MAY HAVE ON AMBASSADOR'S REPLY SO THAT IT CAN BE
TRANSMITTED PROMPTLY.

6. FYI: FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, EMBASSY FILES
CONTAIN A NUMBER OF SPEECHES MADE AT PREVIOUS WORLD FREEDOM
DAY AND CAPTIVE NATIONS DAY RALLIES, AS WELL AS ARTICLES FROM
ASIAN OUTLOOK (ASIAN PEOPLE'S ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE PUBLICA-
TION) CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY.
UNGER

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